



STATISTICAL BRIEF

September 2009

Conditions Related to Uninsured Hospitalizations, 2007

In 2007, about 10 percent of hospital stays were uninsured in Texas. There were 291,387 uninsured hospitalizations resulting in about \$6.5 billion aggregate hospital charges statewide.

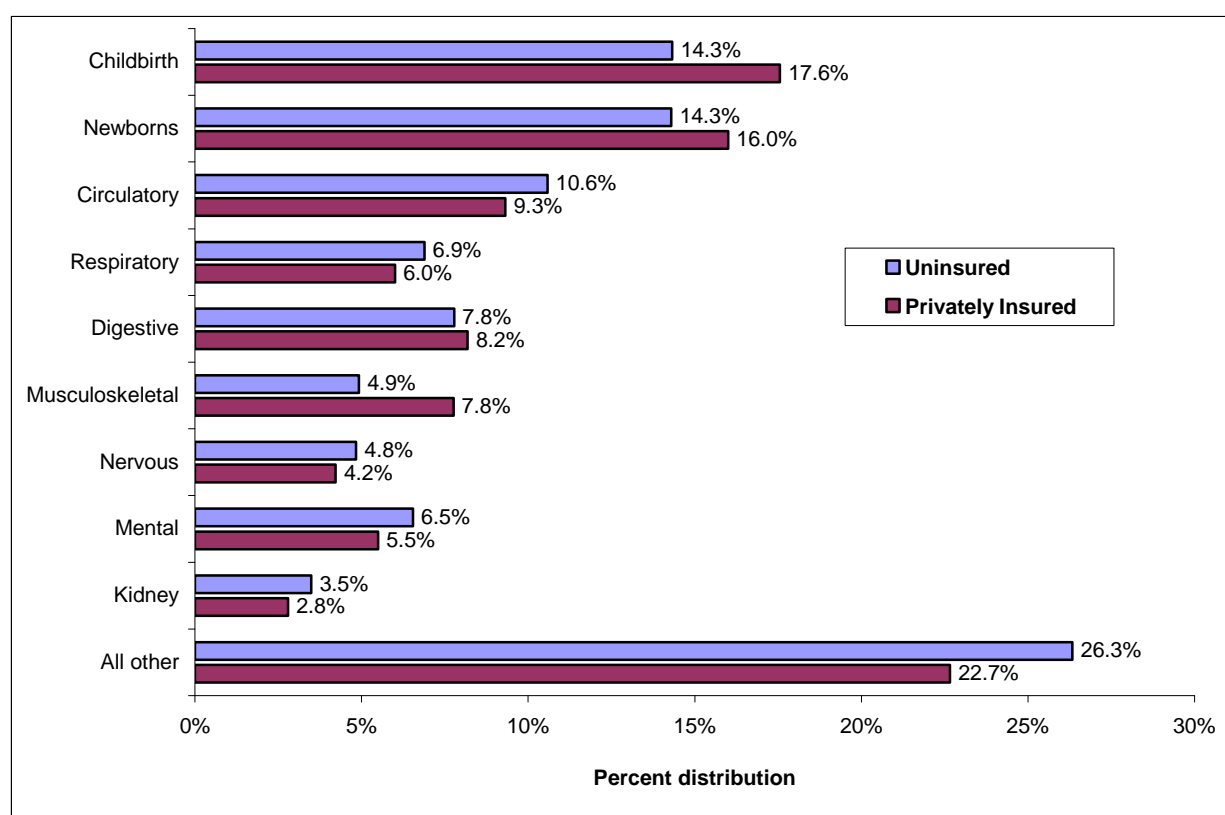
Figure 1 compares the percent distribution of the most common reasons for hospitalization between the uninsured and privately insured. The first two most common reasons for hospitalization among uninsured patients were childbirth and newborns, which together comprised 28.6 percent of all uninsured hospital stays, compared to stays among the privately insured, with 33.6 percent of all stays billed to private insurance. Diseases and disorders of circulatory and respiratory systems, the next two common reasons for hospitalization, accounted for 10.6 and 6.9 percents respectively among uninsured stays, which were slightly higher than the corresponding percentages among privately insured stays. Conversely, the rate for musculoskeletal disorders among privately insured stays (7.8 percent) was much higher than the rate among uninsured stays (4.9 percent) for this condition. For diseases and disorders of digestive system, the privately insured had the rate (8.2 percent) slightly higher than the insured (7.8 percent).

Table 1 lists the top 20 specific conditions for uninsured hospitalization. These 20 conditions comprised more than half of all hospital stays for the uninsured. Six of the top 20 conditions pertained to childbirth: newborn infant, OB-related trauma, other complications of birth, previous C-section, other complications of pregnancy, and normal pregnancy and/or delivery. Five conditions were related to the cardiovascular system: nonspecific chest pain, congestive heart failure, heart attack, coronary atherosclerosis, and stroke. Three conditions were related to mental health and substance abuse: mood disorders, schizophrenia disorders and alcohol-related disorders. Two conditions were acute infections: skin infections and pneumonia. One common disorder, appendicitis, was a nondiscretionary condition (i.e., requiring hospitalization and surgical treatment).

Table 1 illustrates that, while only 9.9 percent of all hospital stays were uninsured, some conditions were disproportionately treated among the uninsured. Uninsured patients accounted for 31.8 percent of stays for alcohol-related disorders, 21.1 percent of stays for pancreatic disorders, and 19.4 percent of stays for appendicitis.

The average hospital charges billed to the uninsured for the top 20 conditions are also displayed in Table 1. The average charge for all uninsured hospitalizations (\$22,161) was significantly lower than the average charge for all privately insured hospitalizations. Differences in average hospital charge also emerged for the most conditions. For fourteen common conditions, the average charge for an uninsured hospital stay was significantly lower than for privately insured patients. Compared to privately insured stays (data not shown in Table 1), hospital charges for uninsured stays were less than half for newborn infant (\$4,078 versus \$9,214) and nearly 29 percent lower for congestive heart failure (\$33,127 versus \$46,344). Among the uninsured, the average hospital charge for only two conditions was significantly higher as compared to private insurance. The average hospital charge billed to the uninsured for alcohol-related disorders was 27 percent higher than the bill to private insurance (\$13,557 versus \$10,673). Hospital charge for appendicitis was nearly 5 percent higher for the uninsured when compared to the privately insured (\$25,729 versus \$24,569).

Figure 1. Percent distribution of the major reasons* for hospitalization by the uninsured and privately insured, 2007



* Based on APR-MDC.

Source: Texas Hospital Inpatient Discharge Public Use Data File (PUDF), 2007.

Table 1. Most frequent conditions for uninsured hospitalization, 2007

Rank	Principal diagnosis	Number of uninsured hospitalizations	Percentage of stays for this condition that are uninsured	Average charge billed to the uninsured for this condition
	All uninsured	291,387	9.9%	\$22,161 *
1	Liveborn (newborn infant)	41,111	10.6%	\$4,078 *
2	Mood disorders	13,593	15.6%	\$8,447 *
3	Skin and subcutaneous tissue infections	8,988	17.8%	\$17,281
4	OB-related trauma to perineum and vulva	8,090	11.2%	\$6,858 *
5	Pneumonia (except that caused by tuberculosis or sexually transmitted disease)	6,637	7.6%	\$25,894 *
6	Diabetes mellitus with complications	6,430	16.5%	\$23,171 *
7	Biliary tract disease	6,137	17.3%	\$27,464
8	Nonspecific chest pain	5,968	14.9%	\$16,376 *
9	Other complications of birth, puerperium affecting management of mother	5,674	8.9%	\$9,598 *
10	Congestive heart failure, nonhypertensive	5,101	7.4%	\$33,127 *
11	Previous C-section	5,072	9.2%	\$10,600 *
12	Acute myocardial infarction (heart attack)	4,824	12.3%	\$64,525 *
13	Appendicitis and other appendiceal conditions	4,441	19.4%	\$25,729 **
14	Coronary atherosclerosis and other heart disease	4,420	6.9%	\$46,427 *
15	Pancreatic disorders (not diabetes)	4,290	21.1%	\$28,466 *
16	Schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders	4,172	11.8%	\$12,758
17	Other complications of pregnancy	4,169	8.9%	\$9,050 *
18	Acute cerebrovascular disease (stroke)	3,953	10.9%	\$52,497
19	Normal pregnancy and/or delivery	3,734	9.7%	\$6,821 *
20	Alcohol-related disorders	3,713	31.8%	\$13,557 **
Total uninsured for the top 20 conditions		150,517 (51.7%)		

* Average charges are significantly lower for uninsured stays compared to privately insured stays, $p < 0.05$.

** Average charges are significantly higher for uninsured stays compared to privately insured stays, $p < 0.05$.

Source: Texas Hospital Inpatient Discharge Public Use Data File (PUDF), 2007.